



# Arop Lagoon Tribune

Ukarumpa, PNG

July 2008

## *Praise the Lord*

- That Luke is done in the three coastal languages — sort of.
- For good relationships among team members.
- For faithful partners.

## *Pray*

- For consultants to check Luke in the other seven languages in July.
- That the Arop team can stay well ahead of the other teams. We are working on Acts and 1&2 Timothy while the others finish Luke.
- For Emil and Peter as they continue to lead the translation team and their local churches.
- That the Lord would use the translations in the translators' own lives, and ours too!
- For the translators to have good opportunities to use and test their translations in the local churches.
- For Eric as he makes the transition from PNG to the USA.

## **Luke Finished (almost)**

**Final Checking of Luke** for the Coastal languages went extremely well in May. We even had time at the end to check Jonah for two of the languages that had not had it checked before.

We had each passage read aloud in each language. Then we would ask specific questions to make sure the translations were clear, accurate, and natural. Sometimes the language experts would tell us back the story and we would check to make sure the translation was communicating everything it was supposed to communicate and nothing more or less.

**The next step** is for the translators to make adjustments based on

“opportunities for improvement” that we found in the translations as we checked them. It will probably be late in the year before Luke is finally published in these languages, but the part I needed to be here for is done.

**Thank you** for being part of the team that made this possible.

**Heading home.** By the time you read this, we will have left PNG for our “Home Assignment” in the USA on June 23rd. See more details inside.

**Would you like us to come and see you and/or to share about Bible translation with your church or group while we’re in the USA? Contact us soon!**



**Having fun.** Lest you think translation is all work and no play, consider this: When you’re checking translations of Luke in four languages and are referring to three others (Greek, English, Pidgin), there are way too many opportunities for puns and other jokes.



**Consulting the experts.** Sissano language translator Kenny Aiprum (center) and his partner Leones had two older men with them at our Final Checking sessions to help them make sure their translation would ‘cry good’ (sound right) in their language. Just read the instructions for your DVD player if you want to know what a bad translation sounds like when it doesn’t ‘cry good.’

## Home Assignment: What is that?

**Heading Home** We want to be in the USA for Eric’s transition year, so we are coming home June 23rd for our “Home Assignment.” What they used to call furlough is a time for us to reconnect with supporters, churches, and family, and to continue our work, even while we’re in the USA. We’ll also be supported in the same way we are now.

### “Normal” work we’ll still be doing

#### John

- Working on the translations via email (Acts and 1&2 Timothy).
- Attending Wycliffe computing conferences and meetings.
- Consulting on development of software for translators, especially for multi-language projects
- Consulting with other translators who are already in or are considering starting multi-language translation projects.

#### Bonnie

- Facilitating an organization-wide five to ten-year strategy for our organization in PNG, including meetings in PNG in November and March.
- International Board meetings in November and May.
- Looking into opportunities for further training.

### Our tentative schedule—the big picture

July — Travel from PNG to CA, WI, IN, FL.

August — In FL and IN. Get Eric settled in school, settle into house in Upland, IN near Taylor University where Eric and Brianna will be in school.

September — 25th anniversary vacation trip in MN.

October — 25th Class reunions at Wheaton College and Taylor University, Bonnie to Manila for Board meetings. I go to NC for a Wycliffe computing conference.

November — In IN

December — Chicago area for Christmas

January 2009 — In FL for New Years, visit family and churches

February — Missions conf. in FL, Computing meetings in TX.

March — Both of us to PNG, Bonnie to facilitate strategy discussions; I will work with the Arop translators.

April — In IN.

May — In Dallas for Bonnie to attend Board meetings.

# Congratulations Eric!

On June 17th, Eric graduated from Ukarumpa International School with an honors academic diploma.

The school faculty honored him with the Citizen of the Year and the students voted him Student of the Year. Along with two other seniors, he was also honored as Sportsman of the Year.

Some highlights of the end of Eric's senior year:

- Decision to attend Taylor University in Upland, Indiana, where he plans to major in Exercise Science and minor in Video Production (Brianna will be a senior at Taylor in the fall).
- Sports Day at the school, where Eric finished first in the 100, 200, 400, and 800 meter races and one relay.
- More than one 'final' concert with the two worship



bands he has been leading this year.

- Brianna spending the last several weeks with us.
- Saying goodbye to life-long friends who are scattering to countries all over the world, with parties and bonfires at our house every night of the final week at Ukarumpa.

**Please pray for Eric** as he continues to “run his race.”



# ADAM IS GOD'S FATHER OR GOD IS ADAM'S FATHER?



In the genealogy tracing Jesus' blood line through Joseph's family, we eventually come to Luke 3:38, "And Adam's father was God." In Sissano, they say "Adam eke tman iyn God," literally, "This Adam, father his (is) God." But if we were just doing one translation in Sissano expecting Arops to read and understand it because we think it's 'close enough,' they would understand it to be saying "This Adam, (is) God's father." Oops!

When it comes to translating the Bible into somebody's own language, "**close enough**" is not good enough. It has to be in their own dialect, the language they really speak, not a neighboring language that is 'close enough.'

**Gecko's eye view.** This is what you'd see if you were a gecko chasing mosquitoes in the rafters of the porch of our translation center in Arop during final checking of Luke. Going clockwise to my left is Arop translation team leader Emil Ninkure, the Serra team, then the Malol team, the Sissano team, and finally Arop to my right. Each passage was read aloud in each language, then we would ask questions to make sure the translations were clear, accurate, and natural in each language.

**Thank you** for your partnership with us in bringing God's Word all the way home,

*John Nystrom (for Bonnie and all of us)*

## Staying Connected

**On the web:** [www.thenystroms.org](http://www.thenystroms.org)

### Updates and ALT by email

Paper newsletters are expensive, so we do them only once or twice a year. We send out an email newsletter about every month with news, photos, and prayer requests.

**Send us your email address if you'd like to receive them too, or if you could receive the Arop Lagoon Tribune by email instead of on paper.**

### Mailing Addresses

**USA:** 12352 Imperial Dr  
Seminole FL 33772  
**PNG:** SIL Box 365  
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### Contributions

Checks go to the Wycliffe address at right, with a note saying it's for John & Bonnie Nystrom in PNG.



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**Remembering the tsunami, 10 years later.** This hand-painted shirt says, "I'm sorry for Sissano, Warapu, Arop and Malol. My home place." July 17, 2008 will be the 10th anniversary of the day the tsunami wiped out Arop village, killing many and changing the lives of everybody in Arop, as well as ours.